

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0052

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: FURTHER POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

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(D) ADDIS 8123 (E) USDAO IR 66830015174 DT 6 150900Z JUL 74

(F) USDAO IR 6830015474 DT6 151500Z JUL 74

1. RADIO ETHIOPIA ANNOUNCED EVENING JULY 12 SURRENDER INTER ALIA OF RAS MESFIN AND THE DETENTION OF FIT. KEBEDE DESTA ASSERTING THIS LEAVES ONLY HE DEJ. TSEHAIU INQU SELASSIE AND FIT. TADESSE INQU SELASSIE IGNORING DEADLINE SET AND INCURRING RELATED PENALTIES (CF REF E). ATO GETACHEW MAHTEME SELASSIE, WHO HAD CABLED AFCC FROM LONDON SAID HAVE RETURNED TO ETHIOPIA JULY 14.

2. EVENING JULY 14 RADIO BROADCAST AFCC STATEMENT HIGHLIGHTS OF WHICH MAY BE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS (CF REF E):

(A) ETHIOPIAN PATRIOTS SHOULD PLACE NATIONAL BEFORE PERSONAL

INTREST; COUNTRY NEEDS THEM. COMFORT OF FEW AND OPPRESION OF

THE MANY IN CONFLICT WITH IDEA EMBODIED IN "ETHIOPIA FIRST" MOTTO.

(B) ARMED FORCES NOT PREPARED "RETURN TO BARRACKS"NOW THAT HAND-

FUL CORRUPT OFFICIALS IN DETENTION. NOR DO ARMED FORCES WISH

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SEIZE POWER WHICH DETAINEES ABUSED. ARMED FORCES DECLINE ROLE

OF INSTRUMENT OF TYRANNY FOR ETHIOPIAN OPPRESSORS OF THEIR COM-PATRIOTS. THEY SEEK PRESERVE PEOPLE'S RIGHTS AND WISH LIBERATE MASS OF THE OPPRESSED FROM GRIP OF "AUTHORITARIANS." (C) REFERENCES TO ETHIOPIA'S ANCIENT HISTORY OF INDEPENDENCE AND HEROISM OUR FOREFATHERS WILL LEAD NOWHERE. PRESENT GENERATION MUST WORK TO BUILD HERITAGE IT CAN HAND ON. IT MUST SACRIFICE ITS INTERESTS TO NATION'S, IMPROVE LATTER'S ADMINISTRATION AND DEFEND IT FROM FOREIGNAGGRESSION. (D) ARMED FORCES INTERESTED IN PEOPLE'S WELL BEING. THEY WISH IMPROVEMENT OF GOVERNMENT; A HALT TO EXPLOITATION BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES AND TO THE SCRAMBLE FOR LAND BETWEEN LANDLORD AND TENANT. THESE EVILS IF NOT CHECKED WILL LEAND NATION TO PRECARIOUS ECONOMIC SITUATION. PEOPLE SHOULD REALIZE THAT NO ONE SHOULD POSSESS SOMEONE ELSE'S PROPERTY BY FORCE. THE COUNTRY CANNOT BELONG TO ALL "AS LONG AS THE PRIVILEGED FEW SUCK THE SWEAT OF THE PEOPLE."

3. ERITREAN DEVELOPMENTS (REF A AND B) HAVE DIPLO CIRCUIT ABUZZ. AFP AND FIGARO CORRESPONDENTS JUST BACK FROM 48 HOUR SOJOURN IN ASMARA. THEY REPORT LARGEST LUXURY HOTEL EMPTY; LARGER THAN USUAL HORDES OF BEGGARS; FEWER FOREIGNERS ON STREETS; MILITARY PATROLS; MANY SHOPS CLOSED AND ASSERT ELF HIGHLY VISIBLE JUST OUTSIDE TOWN. THEY NOTE GOVGEN SURROUNDED BY RANKING MILITARY WHISKED AWAY IMMEDIATELY AFTER DISTRIBUTING DIPLOMAS TO GRADUATES ASMARA UNIVERSITY (EMPEROR DID NOT DO JOB THIS YEAR). ITALIAN AMBASSADOR AGREES SOMEWHAT GREATER THAN USUAL NUMBER ITALIANS LEAVING ERITREA THIS YEAR ON VACATION OR FOR GOOD AND NOTES KAGNEW PHASEDOWN'S BY NOW HEAVY ADVERSE IMPACT ON PROVINCE'S ECONOMY. JOURNALISTS ALSO BELIEVE NEGOTIATIONS ALREADY IN COURSE BETWEEN ELF AND AFCC UT CAN ADDUSE NO RPT NO DETAILS.

4. VARIOUS MEMBERS AMERICAN COMMUNITY REPORT HAVING RUN INTO MILITARY ROAD BLOCKS ON MAIN ARTERIES OUTSIDE ADDIS. MILITARY WAVED THEM THROUGH AFTER CURSORY VISUAL CHECK OF PASSENGERS. WYMAN

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